



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
**730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**  
**Phone: 781-316-3000**

**webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us**

## **School Committee Minutes 06/21/2007**

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**THURSDAY JUNE 21, 2007**  
**7:30 PM**

**Present:** Susan Lovelace, Chair  
Sean Garballey, Vice Chair  
Jeff Thielman, Secretary  
Denise Burns  
Joe Curran  
Sue Sheffler  
Ronald Spangler

**Superintendent:** Nate Levenson  
**Chief Financial Off** Sue Mazzarella

**Absent:**

**Asst. Supt.:** Kevin Hutchinson  
**Sp. Ed. Director:** Barbara Cataldo  
**Student Reps.:** Sean Conroy and Ella Hartenian

Mr. Garballey exited meeting to attend Dollar for Scholars award ceremony and returned  
Ms. Sheffler exited meeting 10:25 PM

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**CONSENT AGENDA** – all items listed with an asterisk (\*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Committee so requests, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence

*Ratification of the 3 contracts*

*\*Approval of AEA, Arlington Education Association, Unit C Secretarial Contract*

*\*Approval of AAA Arlington Administrators Association Contract*

*\*Approval of Cafeteria employees and Matrons*

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was  
Voted to approve the consent agenda as presented  
Vote 7-0 unanimous

### **200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS**

*Elise Frangos, Director of the Arlington High School English Department, Sean Garballey, Vice Chairmen of the Arlington School Committee and Michael Ruderman were judges of the contest and presented the awards to the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Essay Contest Winners. Additional judges were Dr. John Burt, Richard Duffy and Roland Chaput. Participating in the essay contest, "Arlington Past, Present and Future and what this means." were fifteen Middle School students and sixty-nine Arlington High School students. The winners of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Essay Contest were the following students:*

*First place Amy Rahim, Senior, Arlington High School*  
*Second place Marika Osterbun, Senior, Arlington High School*  
*Third place Hazel Briner, Senior, Arlington High School*

*First place Jillene Cadigen, Ottoson Middle School  
Second Place Greg Magni, Ottoson Middle School  
Third place Ben Kuhn, Ottoson Middle School*

#### **DISTRICT VISION and SPECIAL EDUCATION VISION**

*Ms. Lovelace and the committee asked the department heads and administration team to continue the discussion from the School Committee & Superintendent Retreat held on Friday June 15, 2007 regarding the district vision. The main focus of discussion with all the members this evening pertained to a key question: "Where do we want to be as a K-12 district in 10 years and how can we work together to get there?"*

*The School Committee present, Superintendent Levenson, Ms. Mazzarella and the Administrative team members; Ms. Bouvier, Ms. Bouris, Ms. Bodie, Mr. Carme, Mr. Pat Tassone, Ms. D'Amico, Mr. Penta, Mr. Brown, Ms. Frangos, Ms. McCarthy Mr. Skidmore and Ms. Zerchykov gave great insight of their own vision and agree with the points that communication is critically important as well as the values of Arlington's tradition and culture. We want to focus on the whole child and together with parents, students and teachers we will prepare them for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, socially, emotionally, and financially.*

#### **BREAK**

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was  
Moved to accept the 21st century Action plan and Special Education plan: A vision of Achievement.*

*Mr. Thielman would like the last italics paragraph on page 1 and on page 4 of the Special Education Plan be removed.*

*Ms. Burns would like to postpone the motion until July 31, 2007 because this was not an agenda item tonight and would like additional input from the community before this was voted on and would like others to have advance notice to the special Education plan*

*After discussion from the committee members Ms. Burns would like to move*

*Mr. Thielman and seconded by Ms. Burns it was  
Voted that the document of the Special Education plan: A vision of Achievement, when posted on the website, strike out the two italics paragraphs.  
Vote 6-0 unanimous*

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Levenson addressed the Leadership Hiring plan and stated all indications show that by Wednesday, June 26, 2007 we will need a new Assistant Superintendent. He would like to recommend approval of Ms. Kathleen Bodie as Interim Assistant Superintendent contingent on Hutch leaving. Then we would post the Assistant Superintendent position internally, then form a screening committee and bring a recommendation to the School Committee for approval by July 31<sup>st</sup>. This is critical that we have someone oversee hiring and summer professional development and would like to see someone with experience in the district to take on this role.

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was  
Voted to move to direct Superintendent to approve Ms. Kathleen Bodie as Interim Assistant Superintendent if Assistant Superintendent Mr. Hutchinson leaves.  
Vote 4-1-1 –Mr. Garballey voted No and Mr. Curran abstained.*

Mr. Garballey and Mr. Curran wanted it noted that their vote had nothing to do with the candidate Ms. Kathleen Bodie.

After much discussion, the committee members were in favor to give the Superintendent the authority to hire the interim person, Ms. Kathleen Bodie. Superintendent stated the best possible person would be someone coming from our own pool of department heads or principals that have familiar experiences within our district.

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curran it was*

***Voted to move to Direct Superintendent to post for a Permanent Assistant Superintendent position both internally and externally, if Mr. Hutchinson leaves.***

***Vote: 5 –1 Ms. Burns No vote***

***Mr. Spangler moved to amend the motion and seconded by Ms. Burns to defer hiring a permanent Assistant Superintendent until such time that a decision has been made on the current superintendents contract.***

Mr. Thielman and Ms. Lovelace would not vote to delay the hiring of an Assistant Superintendent regardless of the Superintendent's contract being renewed or not, because we need to continue to move the district forward.

***Mr. Spangler offered to withdraw the amendment.***

***On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Garballey it was Voted to move the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 PM.***

***Vote 6-0 unanimous***

Superintendent Levenson spoke that the Special Education Director is a difficult position to fill, that no one really wants this job and realized this from past experience when this position was posted last January 2007. Superintendent Levenson spoke with Gerry Kupperschmidt to discuss interest in an interim appointment to the Director of Special Education. Mr. Kupperschmidt has had 30 years experience as a Special Education Director and had been our acting out of district coordinator last summer and a part time consultant this year. This position was funded by a Special Education Improvement Grant. Superintendent Levenson would like to recommend his plan, of option 1, from his Leadership Hiring Plan, which would be to appoint Mr. Kupperschmidt as Interim Special Education Director of 2 –3 months.

***On a motion from Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Curran it was Voted to appoint of the Mr. Gerry Kupperschmidt as Interim Special Education Director for 2-3 months, during the summer. Vote 6-0 unanimous***

The Screening Committee will be set up and will include the Superintendent, a School Committee member, two principals, two curriculum leaders, two teachers and two parent/community members.

Mr. Garballey stated he would like to be part of the screening committee for the Social Studies Department Head position and Ms. Lovelace noted that she would consider this.

The Superintendent went over the budget regarding the Special Education reimbursements from the state and noted about \$ 40,000 will be reimbursed to Arlington that was not part of our budget and the Superintendent would recommend to reinstate the 8<sup>th</sup> grade drama and to eliminate the third tier fee from the athletic fees for high school students.

***On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was Voted to move the 11 o'clock rule to 11:30 PM Vote 6-0 unanimous***

***On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curran it was Voted to reinstate 8<sup>th</sup> grade drama at the Ottoson Middle School and to eliminate the fee for playing a 3<sup>rd</sup> sport at the high school. Vote 6-0 unanimous***

Superintendent Levenson spoke about the enrollment of the day care center at the Stratton School is down and is due to the program not being completed and would like to bring in non staff members children for the first year, this would include town employees

***On a motion by Mr. Curran and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was Voted to open up enrollment to children other than Arlington District for the Day care Ms. Burns would like to amend that Arlington School personnel always hold preference. And amended by Mr. Garballey that this is for the Stratton Day care center only. Vote 6-0 unanimous***

## ***SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS***

Mr. Spangler made note the draft minute from the previous Policy and Procedure Subcommittee were included in our packets.

Mr. Garballey reported that the Budget Subcommittee will continue to review the budget and do research on fundraising.

## ***SECRETARY'S REPORTS***

Mr. Thielman reported all correspondence that was received including the Calliope magazine, Stratton school notices and many emails regarding the elimination of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom from the Dallin.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

Susan Lovelace received a letter from the Arlington Schools Foundation regarding appointment of a School Committee representative to serve on their board.

*On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Curran it was,  
Voted to appoint Ms. Sheffler to the Arlington Schools Foundation Board  
Vote 6-0 unanimous*

*On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Curran it was  
Voted to move to have Arlington School Committee thank the Arlington Tax payers for keeping this program, Dollar for Scholars, operational and supporting the students of the Arlington Public Schools.*

*Ms. Lovelace asked if sending a letter to endorse this to the Arlington Advocate would be acceptable and Mr. Spangler amended the motion to include that this donation is tax deductible.  
Vote: 6-0 unanimous*

## ***ADJOURNMENT***

*On a motion Mr. Thielman, and second by Mr. Spangler it was  
Voted to adjourn at 11:25 PM  
Vote 6-0*

*Submitted by  
Karen Fitzgerald  
Administrative Assistant  
Arlington School Committee*